

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: January 19, 2012

Agenda Item: Pursue Assignment of Grazing Lease for DNRC Lease 10488 Adjacent to First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Division: Parks

Action Needed:

_____ **Approval of Tentative Rule**

___X___ **Approval of Final Rule/Action**

_____ **Endorse Course of Action**

_____ **None - information only**

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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Background: A 320 acre parcel of DNRC property containing valuable cultural resources is located adjacent to First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. The Park's Management Plan states it is desirable to "investigate possibilities for converting state lands currently leased by All Nations Pishkun Association into the state park through land exchanges or purchase". Lease 10488 will expire on February 28, 2012, and it is proposed that Fish, Wildlife and Parks be assigned as a co-lessee on the State grazing lease through DNRC's existing lease processes, thereby bringing the parcel under the control of the park. This action will protect the valuable cultural resources on the parcel, protect the view shed within the park, avoid uses of the parcel inconsistent with park goals, and provide for proper management and control of prairie dogs present on the parcel.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Park Management Plan, dated December 2005, involved an extensive public involvement process and the objectives related to acceptable uses of adjacent state lands was supported by the public. The park's independent friends group, All Nations Pishkun Association, sought out and acquired the grazing lease in 2002 in support of the public's vision for the park. This vision was incorporated into specific objectives for the parcel in the Park Management Plan, and open to public review and comment.

Alternatives and Analysis:

A. No action. The existing grazing lease will expire on February 28, 2012 and be open to public competitive bidding through DNRC protocol. Without FWP holding the lease or being involved in management of the parcel, the cultural resources could be jeopardized. Additionally, uses of the parcel that are inconsistent with park goals could be allowed, and successful management of the prairie dogs would be restricted.

B. Pursue Assignment of State Lease 10488 to make FWP a co-lessee. The parcel contains 320 acres, with 12 AUM's. Base rate per AUM in 2012 will be \$7.90, which results in the annual lease payment being \$94.80. The lease will be open for competitive bidding, so the final cost will not be determined until early February after DNRC's competitive bidding process is concluded. FWP will pay the lease fee.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: Pursue Assignment of State Lease 10488 through the State Land Board to include FWP as a co-lessee to achieve the objectives of the Park Management Plan and protect valuable cultural resources related to First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park.

Proposed Motion: I move to approve pursuing the Assignment of State Lease 10488 located adjacent to First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park through the State Land Board to include FWP as a co-lessee.